

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining resource allocation, comprising:

associating a ~~generic~~ value stream having a plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components with a plurality of industry segments;

allocating, for at least one of the industry segments, expenditures for a time period to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the industry segment; and

determining, for at least one of the industry segments, the amount of expenditures associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components relative to the total amount of expenditures for the at least one industry segment, the determination for use in determining the resource allocation.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

allocating, for at least one of the industry segments, a change in expenditures between at least two time periods to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the industry segment;

determining, for at least one of the industry segments, at least one expenditure trend associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated change in expenditures for use in determining the resource allocation.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

allocating revenue information for a time period to at least one of the industry segments, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross profits;

determining the resource allocation based on the allocated revenue information.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
allocating a change in revenues between at least two time periods to at least one of the industry segments;

determining at least one revenue trend associated with the at least one industry segment based on the allocated change in revenues for use in determining the resource allocation.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising
allocating a plurality of operational variables with the ~~generic~~ value stream components; and

determining at least one new operational variable associated with at least one of the ~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated expenditures.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components comprises:

- a market identified component;
- a product engineered component;
- a product manufactured component;
- a product stored or distributed component;
- a customer aware of need component;
- a customer finds product component;
- a customer makes final selection component;
- a customer orders product component;
- a product delivered component;
- a product installed component;
- a customer pays for product component;
- a customer uses product component;
- a customer needs product help component;
- a product is returned or exchanged component;
- a product is repaired component; and
- a customer no longer needs component.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of industry segments are associated with a plurality of industries comprising:

- a utilities industry;
- a financial and transportation industry;
- a healthcare industry;
- a communication, entertainment, and media industry; and
- a products and retail industry.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time period is one year.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating resource allocation, comprising:

- a computer-readable medium;
- a database storing expenditures for a time period for a plurality of industry segments, the expenditures associated with at least one of a plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components; and
- a computer program stored on the computer-readable medium operable to display a desired portion of the database.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the desired portion is the entire database.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further stores a change in expenditures between at least two time periods for at least one of the plurality of industry segments, the change in expenditures associated with at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further stores revenue information for a time period for at least one of the plurality of industry segments, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross profits.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further stores a change in revenue information between at least two time periods for at least one of the plurality of industry segments, the change in revenue information selected from the group consisting of a change in net sales and a change in gross profits.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further stores a plurality of operational variables associated with the ~~generic~~ value stream components.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components comprises:

- a market identified component;
- a product engineered component;
- a product manufactured component;
- a product stored or distributed component;
- a customer aware of need component;
- a customer finds product component;
- a customer makes final selection component;
- a customer orders product component;
- a product delivered component;
- a product installed component;
- a customer pays for product component;
- a customer uses product component;
- a customer needs product help component;
- a product is returned or exchanged component;
- a product is repaired component; and
- a customer no longer needs component.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of industry segments are associated with a plurality of industries comprising:

- a utilities industry;
- a financial and transportation industry;
- a healthcare industry;
- a communication, entertainment, and media industry; and
- a products and retail industry.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the time period is one year.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for determining resource allocation, comprising:

associating a ~~generic~~ value stream having a plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components with a plurality of industry segments;

allocating a change in revenue information between time periods to a first industry segment, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross profits;

allocating input North American Industry Classification System codes to a second industry segment, wherein at least one of the input North American Industry Classification System codes is associated with the first industry segment; and

determining a revenue information trend associated with the first industry segment based on the allocated change in revenue information for use in determining the resource allocation for the second industry segment.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

allocating, for at least one of the industry segments, expenditures for a time period to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the industry segment; and

determining the amount of expenditures associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components relative to the total amount of expenditures for the industry segment, the determination for use in determining the resource allocation.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
allocating, for at least one of the industry segments, a change in expenditures between
at least two time periods to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components
for the industry segment;

determining at least one expenditure trend associated with the at least one of the
plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated change in expenditures
for use in determining the resource allocation.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
allocating revenue information for a time period to at least one of the industry
segments, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross
profits;

determining the resource allocation based on the allocated revenue information.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising
allocating a plurality of operational variables with the ~~generic~~ value stream
components; and

determining at least one new operational variable associated with at least one of the
~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated expenditures.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the time periods are each one year.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for determining resource allocation, the method comprising:

associating a ~~generic~~ value stream having a plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components with a plurality of industry segments;

allocating, for a first industry segment, expenditures for a time period to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the first industry segment;

determining the amount of expenditures associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components relative to the total amount of expenditures for the at least one industry segment, the determination based on the allocated expenditures;

identifying the ~~generic~~ value stream component for the first industry segment having the highest percentage of expenditures; and

identifying a second industry segment based on the ~~generic~~ value stream component having the highest percentage of expenditures.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

allocating, for at least one of the industry segments, a change in expenditures between at least two time periods to at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the industry segment;

determining at least one expenditure trend associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated change in expenditures for use in determining the resource allocation.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

allocating revenue information for a time period to at least one of the industry segments, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross profits;

determining the resource allocation based on the allocated revenue information.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
allocating a change in revenues between at least two time periods to at least one of the industry segments;

determining at least one revenue trend associated with the at least one industry segment based on the allocated change in revenues for use in determining the resource allocation.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
allocating a plurality of operational variables with the ~~generic~~ value stream components; and

determining at least one new operational variable associated with at least one of the ~~generic~~ value stream components based on the allocated expenditures.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 31, wherein the time period is one year.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating resource allocation, comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

a database storing expenditures for a time period for a first industry segment, the expenditures associated with at least one of a plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components; and

a computer program stored on the computer-readable medium operable to determine the amount of expenditures associated with the at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components relative to the total amount of expenditures for the at least one industry segment, the computer program further operable to identify the ~~generic~~ value stream component for the first industry segment having the highest percentage of expenditures, identify a second industry segment based on the ~~generic~~ value stream component having the highest percentage of expenditures, and display a desired portion of the database.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the desired portion is the entire database.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 37, wherein the database further stores a change in expenditures between at least two time periods for at least one of the industry segments, the change in expenditures associated with at least one of the plurality of ~~generic~~ value stream components for the industry segment.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the database further stores revenue information for a time period for at least one of the industry segments, the revenue information selected from the group consisting of net sales and gross profits.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the database further stores a change in revenues between at least two time periods for at least one of the industry segments.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 37, wherein the database further stores a plurality of operational variables associated with the ~~generic~~ value stream components..

43. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the time period is one year.